

York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 18th October 2022 17.30 by Zoom

Attending; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary) Dave Merrett, Roger French (Finance and Membership), Alan Robinson, Flick Williams, Tom Bridge and Cathy Croston(First), Toby Hart, Duncan Millar, Tony Hudson, David Stuart, Jim Forrest -Harbus, Mary Fairbrother, Lionel Lennox, Glen Simpson, Catherine Odell, Ian Anderson, Adam Crowther (Speaker), Richard Bourne, Stewart Harrison, Richard Byron, Roger Pierce, Diana Robinson, Caroline Meacock, Laura Herman, Carol Green, Eden Blyth, John Bibby, Terry French and George Wood.

1. Welcome to new attendees who are many, apologies from Gail Shuttleworth, Brandon Jones, Michael Howard, Mary Harlington, Kevin Fradley, Cllr. R. Melly.
2. Minutes of last meeting
GC pointed out that section 9 contained mistake, NM to rectify
2.1 ZEBRA update, FW pointed out that as far as we know the new buses would only contain one disabled seat, this is an opportunity missed. TB will confirm position.
2.2 TH confirmed that notice board at Dunnington has now been repaired following our approach.
3. Adam Crowther, Head of City Transport at Bristol gave a presentation on transport developments in the city.
The city produced their LTP4 two years ago, they have programme to develop 'Strategic Transport Corridors' within the next 10-15 years.
New routes are similar to BTR in design and are based on expanding and enhancing existing operations alongside their primary supplier, First. The key is to segregate buses from general traffic.
Other major elements include enhancing Park and Ride sites to become transport hubs and creating mobility centres in local locations to coordinate travel modes.
Plans include closure of the city centre to through traffic, zero emission bus fleet, good quality bus shelters, integrated ticketing and using feeder local buses into rapid regular strategic route vehicles.
Current constraints are the lack of drivers, slow return of passengers following COVID, service cuts due to revenue shortfall.
Opportunity provided by £100M BSIP award and forthcoming Clean Air Zone restrictions. Also, they are considering DRT options in less used routes.
DR advised that on her recent trip to Bristol she found the bus passenger information outside Temple Meads station woeful. TB agreed it requires improvement.
NM asked if they believed that bus passengers would be prepared to change vehicles? TB responded that Tube passengers are used to it, key thing was to ensure frequent buses on main routes.
FW asked if there is Blue Badge access in city centre? TB said yes on some streets.
RP suggested that Belfast Glider buses are similar to the FTR vehicles tried in York, they were abandoned because of ticketing issues, have these been fixed now? TB agreed that they are not in service in Bristol yet but felt they offered advantages over double-deckers particularly in disabled accommodation.

GW asked about concessionary fare users, TB confirmed that this group had yet to return.

AR asked if P&R routes go only to the city centre. TB said that they connect with other visitor locations in the city.

DMag asked how optimistic or pessimistic TB was about plans, he replied that the Clean Air Zone is likely to have a great impact.

4. BSIP update

DMag. had no further information at this time.

5. Enhanced Partnership update

DMag had no further information at this time, we have submitted our lead candidate for this body, GC but awaiting date of first meeting. TB suggested it might be November 10th but this is likely to be the steering group not the forum.

6. Bus Stop Charter

NM reported that comments had been received from CYC, but they did not make a material difference to the Charter. This would now be circulated to the representatives on CYC and hopefully tabled at the EP.

RP asked if Parish Councils would match spending on bus stops as is their power.

FW added that Leeds has a significantly better bus stop infrastructure than York.

DR pointed out that Rawcliffe have an upgraded shelter.

7. Threats to services

We now understand that at least services 11 and 12 were threatened by the network review, this is potentially disastrous for the future of buses in the city.

TB suggested that there is still a chronic shortage of drivers and current pay offers are being reviewed.

NM asked what First are going to do to generate more passengers? Where is the publicity campaign?

GW advised that there are still health concerns for older bus users.

RP suggested that bus users in the city should be allowed to donate tips as we do so in many situations now. CC and TB agreed that this may be worth considering.

RF was concerned about the number of drivers being brought in from outside the city, can more be done to help these individuals?

DR suggested that the face mask recommendation still could be seen as a negative.

SH said that the proposed withdrawal of the service to Bishopthorpe had been done without reference to the village and to date no reason had been suggested.

TB said that he is willing to have a meeting with Bishopthorpe PC to discuss this further.

MF suggested that the map function on the First app. is currently down, CC said she would investigate.

8. Bus reliability

GC reminded meeting the subsidised services should be regularly monitored for cancellations.

RF advised that the Transdev services had improved recently

DR asked if the notice of cancellations could be improved as both sides are blaming each other but little progress is observed. CC reported that new software is being introduced which should alleviate problem.

9. City centre bus access and Rougier Street

NM advised that this delayed report should now be available in the New Year, and it is hoped that we will be consulted.

FW informed the meeting that, despite opposition, the revised plans for development in Rougier Street have resulted in the loss of a bus stop.

10. Local Plan

DM referred to his paper on the LP hearings and advised that the Council will have to respond to the inspectors' comments and any revisions will be considered in further hearings in the Spring.

IA suggested we offer thanks and congratulations to DM for his work in this area.

11. AOB

NM advised that there will be a motion going to the full Council meeting on Thursday calling for better transparency in the EP process.

JF thanked the YBF for recent support and announced that Moorsbus had increased passenger numbers by 17% this year and improved profitability.

GC asked for any comments on the proposed Network Review.

12. DNM

15th November with First presenting Drivers Eye View.